

## **ANALYSIS**

This ordinance adds Chapter 2.203 to the Los Angeles County Code relating to contractor employee jury service programs. It will be applicable to contractors of the County who enter into contracts that commence two or more months after the ordinance's effective date. It also will be applicable to contractors of the County who have existing contracts that are extended into option years that commence two or more months after the effective date of this chapter.

The ordinance requires contractors to have and adhere to a written policy that allows its full-time employees who are residents of California to receive, on an annual basis, no less than five days of regular pay for actual jury service. The ordinance provides that it may be expressly superseded by a collective bargaining agreement. The ordinance excepts from its coverage small businesses as defined in the ordinance.

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2/4/02 (requested)

2/7/02 (revised)

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 2 – Administration of the Los Angeles County Code relating to jury service policies of contractors of the County of Los Angeles.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 2.203 is hereby added to read as follows:

**Chapter 2.203**

**CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE JURY SERVICE**

**2.203.010 Findings.** The board of supervisors makes the following findings. The county of Los Angeles allows its permanent, full-time employees unlimited jury service at their regular pay. Unfortunately, many businesses do not offer or are reducing or even eliminating compensation to employees who serve on juries. This creates a potential financial hardship for employees who do not receive their pay when called to jury service, and those employees often seek to be excused from having to serve. Although changes in the court rules make it more difficult to excuse a potential juror on grounds of financial hardship, potential jurors continue to be excused on this basis, especially from longer trials. This reduces the number of potential jurors and increases the burden on those employers, such as the county of Los Angeles, who pay their permanent, full-time employees while on juror duty. For these reasons, the county of Los Angeles has determined that it is appropriate to require that the businesses with which the county contracts possess reasonable jury service policies.

**2.203.020 Definitions.** The following definitions shall be applicable to this chapter:

A. “Contractor” means a person, partnership, corporation or other entity which has a contract with the county or a subcontract with a county contractor and has received or will receive an aggregate sum of \$50,000 or more in any 12-month period under one or more such contracts or subcontracts.

B. “Employee” means any California resident who is a full-time employee of a contractor under the laws of California.

C. “Contract” means any agreement to provide goods to, or perform services for or on behalf of, the county.

D. “Full time” means 40 hours or more worked per week, or a lesser number of hours if the lesser number is a recognized industry standard as determined by the chief administrative officer.

E. “County” means the county of Los Angeles or any public entities for which the board of supervisors is the governing body.

**2.203.030 Applicability.** This chapter shall apply to contractors who enter into contracts that commence two or more months after the effective date of this chapter. This chapter shall also apply to contractors with existing contracts which are extended into option years that commence two or more months after the effective date of this chapter.

**2.203.040 Contractor Jury Service Policy.** A contractor shall have and adhere to a written policy that provides that its employees shall receive from the contractor, on an annual basis, no less than five days of regular pay for actual jury service. The policy may provide that employees deposit any fees received for such jury service with the contractor or that the contractor deduct from the employees' regular pay the fees received for jury service.

**2.203.050 Other Provisions.**

A. Administration. The chief administrative officer shall be responsible for the administration of this chapter. The chief administrative officer may, with the advice of county counsel, issue interpretations of the provisions of this chapter and shall issue written instructions on the implementation and ongoing administration of this chapter. Such instructions may provide for the delegation of functions to other county departments.

B. Compliance Certification. At the time of seeking a contract, a contractor shall certify to the county that it has and adheres to a policy consistent with this chapter or will have and adhere to such a policy prior to award of the contract.

**2.203.060 Enforcement and Remedies.** For a contractor's violation of any provision of this chapter, the county department head responsible for administering the contract may do one or more of the following:

1. Recommend to the board of supervisors the termination of the contract; and/or,
2. Pursuant to chapter 2.202, seek the debarment of the contractor.

**2.203.070. Exceptions.**

A. Other Laws. This chapter shall not be interpreted or applied to any contractor or to any employee in a manner inconsistent with the laws of the United States or California.

B. Collective Bargaining Agreements. This chapter shall be superseded by a collective bargaining agreement that expressly so provides.

C. Small Business. This chapter shall not be applied to any contractor that meets all of the following:

1. Has ten or fewer employees during the contract period; and,
2. Has annual gross revenues in the preceding twelve months which, if added to the annual amount of the contract awarded, are less than \$500,000; and,
3. Is not an affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation.

“Dominant in its field of operation” means having more than ten employees and annual gross revenues in the preceding twelve months which, if added to the annual amount of the contract awarded, exceed \$500,000.

“Affiliate or subsidiary of a business dominant in its field of operation” means a business which is at least 20 percent owned by a business dominant in its field of operation, or by partners, officers, directors, majority stockholders, or their equivalent, of a business dominant in that field of operation.

**2.203.090. Severability.** If any provision of this chapter is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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